

Pest Management Grants Final Report

**Contract Title: Promotion of Vineyard Pest and Disease Monitoring and
Reduced-Risk Pest Management Practices in Sonoma County**

Contract #: 00-0196S

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Contractor: Sonoma County Grape Growers Association

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Prepared for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation

The statements and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The mention of commercial products, their source, or their use in connection with material reported herein is not to be construed as actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Acknowledgements:

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2001 Executive Summary

The Sonoma County IPM Project goals are to increase pest monitoring as the first step in Integrated Pest Management, to consider reduced -risk pest management options when pest management is needed, and to decrease use of specific fungicides and miticides, i.e. maneb, mancozeb, propargite (Omite®) and fenbutatin-oxide (Vendex®).

In order to achieve these goals, 4 demonstration vineyards, (one in each of 4 major appellations of Sonoma County) were monitored weekly for pests using standardized protocols developed in 2000, results were presented at monthly Grower Appellation Meetings (GAM), monitoring techniques were taught to over 80 growers attending monthly GAM, and pest monitoring data and management implications were discussed by P.I.'s, the IPM Field Specialist and local grape growers. Cultural and biological controls of pests were considered, and reduced-risk pesticides were encouraged when pesticide treatments were required.

Weekly monitoring data from demonstration vineyards were entered the *Sonoma County Vineyard IPM Log* database. Any grape grower in Sonoma County was invited to submit standardized monitoring data from his/her vineyard for inclusion in the Vineyard IPM Log. We were disappointed that no grower voluntarily submitted data, even though 84% of survey respondents felt historical monitoring data were valuable. Weekly monitoring reports and cumulative pest and predator summaries and graphs for each of the demonstration sites were made available at the GAM. Pesticide use data for demonstration vineyards are included in the Vineyard IPM Log.

Management Team meetings occurred monthly and included UCCE Cooperators, Principal Investigators, IPM Field Specialist, Project Coordinator and Demonstration Grant Contractor. The Management Team determined the schedule of topics to be covered at the GAM and all participated in monthly GAM and the annual IPM Field Day. The Management Team's combined expertise and commitment to this IPM project were critical to the successes achieved.

Monthly Grower Appellation Meetings were held in each of the four demonstration vineyard blocks from April - July. The IPM Field Specialist and site P.I. led each meeting and discussed monitoring results from the previous four weeks and management decisions that had been made based on the monitoring information. Pest and predator identification exercises and examples were part of each GAM. The Sonoma County IPM Field Day was held on August 14, 2001, to provide a summary of the project's outcomes to growers/managers, PCA's and industry people. Approximately 100 people attended the program, which included displays by DPR, Healdsburg Wine Library, EPA, Sonoma County Grape Growers Association and UC Cooperative Extension video on glassy-winged sharpshooter identification. A total of 160 different Sonoma County grape growers who attended one or more GAM and IPM Field Day evidence grower interest in IPM and reduced-risk pest control measures. In addition, pest monitoring and identification were taught in Spanish to over 60 vineyard workers, thereby increasing the monitoring capability in Sonoma County vineyards. Vineyard Pest and Disease Monitoring Documents in English and Spanish were developed for major pests and their predators. These sheets were made available to participating growers and vineyard workers, and an *IPM Fieldbook* was produced that included pest monitoring protocols and data forms, a complete set Pest and Disease Monitoring Documents, and resource information important to growers practicing IPM.

Survey results and PUR data indicate SCGGA has achieved project goals. Ninety-three percent of growers are having their vineyards monitored and 51% have increased monitoring as a result of the IPM project. In addition, just 8 PCA's surveyed at our PCA Breakfast meetings are themselves monitoring 20% of Sonoma County bearing grape acres. Thirty-seven percent of growers surveyed are also choosing reduced-risk pesticides. Finally, PUR data from 1999 and 2000 show that acres treated and/or pounds used of 3 of targeted pesticides, propargite, fenbutatin-oxide, mancozeb, did decrease. Maneb use is essentially zero with fewer than 25 lbs used in 2000.

The Management Team and SCGGA Board of Directors have committed to continuing the IPM project in 2002. A grant from US EPA for \$14,000 will support part of the costs of the program. Other cost-saving measures will be taken, e.g. eliminate mailings to growers who have not attended IPM project events in the past and demonstration vineyard monitoring by in-house PCA's at Clos du Bois and Gallo of Sonoma. The program will be expanded to include weed control alternatives to pre-emergence herbicides simazine and oxyfluorfen. Growers will be encouraged to reduce use of these and 7 other pesticides under FQPA review and used in Sonoma County grape production.

Report

Introduction

This project's primary goal was to increase vineyard monitoring in Sonoma County through demonstration. Standardized monitoring techniques and field data collection forms developed in 2000 were shared with growers and Pest Control Advisors (PCA). The second goal was to encourage the use of reduced-risk pesticides to control fungal diseases and mites in Sonoma County grape production.

Objective 1. Promote adoption of Vineyard Field Monitoring through training and Grower Appellation Meetings.

First Task: For the management team of four Principle Investigator's (PI's) and Cooperators who are vineyard managers and leaders in the community, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Field Specialist, IPM Project Coordinator, the UCCE advisors, (Lucia Varela, the IPM Advisor and Rhonda Smith, the viticulture advisor), and the Executive Director of Sonoma County Grape Growers Association (SCGGA) **to plan training sessions** for each Grower Appellation Meeting (GAM), Spanish-language pest management training for vineyard workers, and IPM Field Day. The management team actively encourages growers to monitor their vineyards and report their results on the Field Data Collection Forms (now being referred to as Fieldlog Monitoring Report Forms, (Appendix # 1) to SCGGA each week. Monitoring results submitted would be included in the Vineyard IPM Log, which is a database used to accumulate pest and predator data from each of the 4 demonstration vineyards, and data summaries would be provided to participating growers. The management team also plans publicity for the project, i.e. direct mail, press releases, SCGGA Newsletter and website, to solicit grower participation in GAM and for both Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) monitoring.

There were four specific outputs designated to accomplish this task:

1. To develop newsletter and website materials by April 2001 for soliciting grower participation at GAM and in monitoring and reporting.
2. To plan Spanish-language pest identification and monitoring training for vineyard workers.
3. To increase GWSS monitoring in 2001 to more than 70 growers or more than 2000 acres by May 2001.
4. To have at least two growers/appellation provide data to the Vineyard IPM Log.

Second Task: For the management team **to decide upon topics** to be covered at monthly Grower Appellation Meetings.

Objective 2: Promote adoption of Vineyard Field Monitoring by example in Principle Investigator (PI) Vineyards.

Third Task: To monitor a total of four demonstration vineyards weekly using the Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form. The monitoring results and pest management issues were to be discussed with the PI's/field checkers or in-house PCA's.

The Fourth Task: To have each of the PI's host at their vineyard demonstration site, four monthly GAM for 20 or more growers/managers or PCA's.

Task Five: To hold 3 training sessions in Spanish for vineyard workers.
Two sessions were held because two northern locations were combined for a single session.

Task Six: Monitor samples for sugar concentrations prior to harvest.
Results from 2000 indicated this was not worthwhile data to collect. IPM did not delay harvest maturity.

Task Seven: To hold a Field Workshop (IPM Field Day) in August of 2001 to describe the project and the outcomes. Demonstrate the Vineyard IPM Log to those attending and discuss alternative pest management practices utilized. Promote greater grower participation in monitoring and reporting data for the Vineyard IPM Log.

Task Eight: To write the Grant Progress Report and the Year 3 Proposal.

Objective 3: Promote the use of alternative materials to control *Phomopsis* cane and leaf spot, *Botrytis* and Mites.

Ninth Task: To document the efficacy of reduced-risk pest management materials and methods and to discuss alternatives at GAM.

Objective 4: Increase in this second year of the project, the numbers of acres that were being monitored using the Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form and report this in the Vineyard IPM Log.

Task Ten: To promote use of the SCGGA Vineyard IPM Log by growers. Publicize the SCGGA Vineyard IPM Log in the local media and trade journal articles. Continue providing project updates to the SCGGA membership in the SCGGA *News* (newsletter) and the UCCE Viticulture Newsletter. Demonstrate the database at the SCGGA Dollars & Sense Seminar in January 2001. Grower participation was encouraged but none reported monitoring data in 2000 for inclusion in Vineyard IPM Log. The December issue of the UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County Viticulture Newsletter was to include a grant progress article, but that was cut due to space limitations.

Task Eleven: To provide phone, e-mail, and on-site support for individuals with questions concerning the use of the monitoring techniques, fieldlog monitoring report forms or Vineyard IPM Log.

Task Twelve: To write Year 2 Final Report on this project.

Task Thirteen: To refer to Year 3 of the proposed grant. Each appellation site would host 4 monthly GAM by inviting grower/managers or PCA's from nearby vineyards through direct mail, news releases or personal invitation. Our grant proposal was not renewed for a third year, however we are planning to continue the IPM Project on a limited basis.

Results

Grape grower interest in vineyard monitoring, in IPM, and in using reduced-risk pesticides remained high as evidenced by attendance at IPM events. Monthly GAM were attended by an average of 80.9 growers, nearly 100 attended the IPM Field Day, and a total of

160 different growers participated in one or more events. Surveys from those participants indicated 93% are monitoring their vineyards and 82% are changing their pesticide use. Eighteen of nineteen respondents stated that the GAM helped them to better understand the monitoring results and recommendations of their PCA or Vineyard Manager. Fifty-one percent of respondents increased their monitoring after attending the IPM Meetings and 47% percent are keeping records of their monitoring results. Eight-four percent would like to have seasonal reports summarizing their monitoring data, while 43% percent said they did change their management decisions based on information and discussions at the meetings, (Appendices # 2, 3 & 4).

Objective 1. Promote adoption of Vineyard Field Monitoring through training and Grower Appellation Meetings.

First Task: To plan training sessions.

Output 1: Advertise through direct mail (Appendix # 5), newsletters and website. The February and April 2001 newsletters contained articles informing readers about the upcoming IPM Program for 2001 and encouraging participation (Appendix #6). GAM notes were posted on the website (www.scgga.org) along with notes from the IPM Field Day and the Spanish-language Pest Identification meetings. The website averages 5000 visits per month from growers and consumers. In addition, five regional newspapers regularly carried press releases announcing the upcoming GAM, Spanish-language Pest Identification Meetings, and IPM Field Day (Appendix # 6). This output was completed.

Output 2: Plan pest identification and monitoring training for vineyard workers in Spanish. The management team decided to hold two rather than three field workshops for the Spanish-language vineyard workers in June, one in the Sonoma Valley (the southern part of the County) and the other in the Alexander Valley (the northern part of the County). Daniel Robledo, a local viticultural consultant, Rafael Jimenez, Hafner Vineyard Manager, and Lucia Varela UCCE-IPM Advisor developed and conducted the workshop. Tish Ward from Atwood Ranch (Sonoma Valley) and Dana Grande from Jordan Vineyards (Alexander Valley) hosted the workshops at their vineyards. Large, easy-to-view posters, and colored Spanish-language handouts for insect identification and monitoring (Appendix # 7d) were developed and used at the workshops. (See Appendix # 8d for entire report on Spanish-language pest identification meeting.) This revised output was completed.

Output 3: To increase GWSS monitoring in 2001 to more than 70 growers or more than 2000 acres. Growers expressed continued interest in monitoring for GWSS and yellow sticky traps were made available at the GAM. GWSS monitoring and reporting through e-mails was ongoing from March through October. Growers who participated in the monitoring program did represent more than 2000 acres. We also handed out identification flyers, posters and magnets in both Spanish and English at the GAM. Local nurseries, grocery, home improvement, hardware, feed and drug stores were supplied with GWSS flyers. Presentations on GWSS identification were made at schools and at service organizations. This output was completed.

Output 4: To have at least two growers per appellation contribute data to the Vineyard IPM Log. Our approach of asking for volunteers was not effective, thus we did not get two growers per appellation to monitor and report their results. We continue to believe that average weekly pest and predator data summaries for a given appellation could be of value to growers, but the assumption needs to be validated. This output was not achieved.

The most critical outputs of the first task were completed.

Second Task: To have the Management Team decide topics to be covered at monthly Grower Appellation Meetings. The management team met monthly for two hours to

determine the schedule of topics to be covered at monthly GAM. As the season progressed, the scheduled topics were reviewed to verify the timeliness of the topics based upon pests or predators then affecting the vineyards. Vineyard Pest and Disease Monitoring Documents (Appendix # 7d) were specifically developed for the GAM's. Growers were given the documents to aid their own identification and monitoring throughout the season. Each of the 7 monitoring documents outlines the key pest information, including pictures of the pest, the damage caused, natural predator, if any, and a calendar to aid timely monitoring. When grower/managers had questions or concerns about specific pests, predators or treatment options, time was allotted to address them. A Model of Grape Leafhopper Damage that illustrates three levels of leaf damage by grape leafhoppers (Appendix # 7c) was developed. These teaching aids and the teaching effectiveness at each GAM, were reviewed each month. Detailed planning for the IPM Field Day held in mid-August was accomplished through these meetings. This task was completed.

Objective 2: Promote adoption of Vineyard Field Monitoring by example in PI Vineyards.

Third Task: To monitor the four demonstration vineyards weekly and record results using the Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form. The IPM Field Specialist monitored each of four demonstration vineyards (one for each PI), each week utilizing the previously developed monitoring techniques and the Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form. Within seven days the data were recorded in the Vineyard IPM Log database. The IPM Field Specialist's weekly monitoring results were discussed with the respective PI at each site who then decided upon pest management measures. The monitoring data, decision-making process, and pest management choices for the previous four weeks were reviewed step by step at each site's monthly GAM. This broad-based discussion allowed participants to understand the decision-making, to build confidence on action thresholds and to observe results from reduced-risk pesticide alternatives used.

In meeting this task, we now have two full seasons of consistent, standardized monitoring reports and graphs (Appendices #9,10 & 11) that document pest incidence, predator populations and pest or disease impacts on the canopy. Pest Monitoring Data Sheets summarize the field information, (Appendices #12 & 13). These reports clearly demonstrated actual pest pressures and predator populations that led to a management tactic, which often was not pesticide use.

Fourth Task: To host four monthly Grower Appellation Meetings. Each GAM was announced in local newspapers, (Appendix #6) appellation newsletters, and through weekly GWSS reminder e-mails. Direct mail invitations, (Appendix #5), were sent to 320 growers and vineyard managers, wineries and industry support businesses. Information was included in SCGGA's newsletter and website.

The IPM Program coverage was excellent throughout the entire county. As a result of the widespread publicity, attendance at the GAM met our objective of 20 or more growers/managers or PCA's at each meeting. Total monthly attendance ranged from 76 to 99 with the average monthly attendance of 83. Although there was a core group that attended each meeting, the total grower participation in 2002 totaled 160, or 50% of those receiving direct mail invitations.

Meeting notes that summarized monitoring techniques, action thresholds, and appropriate management strategies were made available at subsequent GAM. These meeting notes, (Appendix #8) were also posted on our website and mailed upon request. Growers/managers were regularly encouraged to bring samples of pest/predator and disease problems to each GAM. As the season progressed and participants felt more comfortable, they shared more of their successes and failures with their neighbors in the appellation. Networking among the participants was encouraged. There were many notable comments on what would make Grower Meetings more valuable (Appendix # 15). While validating the current program, comments suggested the

program be expanded to include more cover crop and weed control information, field trips to demonstrate IPM, published baseline data and new demonstration vineyard sites. Importantly, 86% are interested in participating in next year's IPM Project! The budget was adequate to fully complete this task.

Task Five: To have Spanish-language training for vineyard workers. Two training sessions in Spanish for vineyard workers were successfully held on June 6th and 7th at Atwood Ranch in Glen Ellen and at Jordan Vineyards in Healdsburg, respectively. More than seventeen vineyards were represented with approximately seventy vineyard workers and two PCA's attending the sessions. Vineyard workers were taught to identify the most important insect and mite pests in their area, how to diagnose the major grape diseases, and how to identify the most important natural enemies found in vineyards. Live pest or predators at different stages of development were provided for students to look at under the microscope. Posters helped vineyard workers grasp the biology of insect and disease pests. Monitoring methods for pests and their natural enemies to be encountered throughout the season were taught. Colored handouts in Spanish of the four major pests were developed for this series of workshops and given to each vineyard worker to aid in the identification of pests and predators (Appendix # 7d). These two events were completed as scheduled and within budget. An additional measure of success and vineyard worker interest was evidenced when approximately 20 workers purchased a hand lens that they could use in pest identification when working in their employers' vineyards.

Task Six: To monitor sugar concentrations prior to harvest.

This task was to demonstrate that IPM has no effect on demonstration vineyard fruit ripening. Results from 2000 showed no delays in ripening due to IPM. Thus no sampling was done in 2001.

Task Seven: To have a Field Workshop (IPM Field Day) in August of 2001 to describe the project and the outcomes.

The IPM Field Day was held on August 14, 2001, at the Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm with approximately 100 people in attendance (Appendix # 8g). The presentations by the IPM Field Specialist and the 4 PI's provided an overview of pest levels and damage assessments that occurred during the growing season. Topics were addressed in an interview format and included a description of each PI's IPM Program and of alternative sustainable pest management practices that each employed. Conversations between the PI and IPM Field Specialist are models for this project, not only stimulating discussions with growers in attendance, but also helping growers understand monitoring information presented by a PCA in order to assess pest risks and then make management decisions. This project provides growers with knowledge about sustainable pest management tactics and with encouragement to implement them.

Lucia Varela, UCCE IPM Advisor, interviewed two grower/managers who sent vineyard workers to the June Spanish-language Pest Identification classes. Both employers felt the programs were successful and contributed to the professional development of their vineyard workers, provided worker recognition and training, and made them more useful in early detection of vineyard pests.

Attendees were given an opportunity to see an alternative weed control demonstration by Santa Rosa Junior College. Leonard Diggs, Shone Farm Manager, is evaluating burlap from India and mulch treatments for weed control in vineyards. These treatments are alternatives to herbicides and to mechanical weed control methods that disturb the soil and may increase risks of soil erosion.

Growers visited informational tables prepared and staffed by the SCGGA IPM Project, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Sonoma County GWSS Educational Program, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Sonoma County Wine Library. The

UCCE provided Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Identification and Monitoring Video and Lucia Varela was available to answer questions. The IPM Field Specialist used binders summarizing monitoring results for each block that was monitored in 2000 and 2001 to promote IPM and answered questions about the IPM Demonstration Project.

Use of the Vineyard IPM Log was promoted and demonstrated at the SCGGA Project Table. A new *IPM Fieldbook* that was developed by the Research Committee to assist those in the field with sound and useful pest monitoring information was presented (Appendix # 7). This IPM Fieldbook contains Fieldlog Monitoring Report Forms that can be submitted to SCGGA for inclusion in the database. Pest/predator and disease identification sheets in English and Spanish, each of which outlines the key elements of a major pest with pictures of the pest and the damage it causes, and a calendar to help growers and vineyard managers monitor at the proper time. *IPM Fieldbooks* were given to all PI's and the SRJC in appreciation for their support. Growers can purchase the books for a nominal charge. Updates and additions will be sent as needed. The *IPM Fieldbook* will be available on the SCGGA website for growers throughout the North Coast. Channel 50 TV News covered the August 14 Field Day and aired the story on August 14th and 15th.

IPM Project Evaluation forms were mailed to 320 recipients on the IPM Mailing List (Appendix # 16). Forty-six of those were returned. Ninety-five percent of the respondents felt that the GAM helped them to better understand monitoring results and recommendations made by their vineyard manager. Thirty-two growers who responded to the evaluation survey and have seen the data summaries have expressed interest in adopting the monitoring and data reporting protocols for their vineyards.

This task was successfully completed. The IPM Project also co-sponsored the Pest Management Alliance Field Day with the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG). This Field Day was held on April 26, 2001, at Kendall-Jackson Wine Center in Santa Rosa and attracted over 130 growers, managers and winery personnel. Reducing sulfur drift, weed control alternatives to pre-emergent herbicides, and neighbor relations were addressed.

Task Eight: To write the Grant Progress Report and the Year-3 Proposal. The Progress Report was completed on September 28, 2001, along with the Year-3 Proposal. Progress Report appendices were only supplied to DPR and not included in the Year-3 Proposal. That decision contributed to SCGGA not receiving funding for the 2002 IPM Program.

Objective 3: To promote the use of alternative materials to control Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, Botrytis and Mites.

Task Nine: To document the efficacy of reduced-risk pest management materials and methods and to discuss alternatives at GAM.

Spring vineyard monitoring in 2001 indicated limited Phomopsis pressure in the demonstration vineyards. No treatments were required. GAM discussions included recommendations that mancozeb and maneb not be used to control this disease. The Adams Ranch vineyard required spot treatments for mites in 2000. Both Adams Ranch and Martini Ranch used JMS Stylet Oil® in 2001 to suppress early season mites and to prevent powdery mildew. JMS Stylet Oil did suppress mite populations, but was not completely effective as a mildewicide. Sulfur cannot be used within two weeks of an oil application due to phytotoxicity issues. Thus future use of oil for mite suppression may require the addition of a compatible fungicide—one that is not targeted under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

Mite populations did increase late in the season at Martini Ranch and Reedy Ranch. No treatment was needed at Martini Ranch due to the PI's tolerance for mites, a vigorous block, and an early harvest. Reedy Ranch needed treatment due to a severe mite problem and increasing

phylloxera devigoration. Agri-Mek® was used with good results. GAM discussions of mite controls recommended that propargite and fenbutan-oxide not be used. Growers who needed to treat for mites used JMS Stylet Oil or newer miticides such as Agri-Mek and Nexter®.

Survey results from the 46 growers who returned the IPM Project Evaluations indicated that GAM helped 82% of the respondents to decrease use of the 4 Proposition 65-targeted pesticides, propargite (Omite®), fenbutatin-oxide (Vendex®), mancozeb (Dithane®), and maneb. Change happens slowly, but growers/managers are learning about substituting softer chemicals for ones in current use and are eliminating use of some chemicals altogether. Data from PUR show mancozeb was used on 1809 fewer acres in 2000 than in 1999. Use rate increased from 1.36 pounds per acre in 1999 to 1.54 pounds per acre in 2000, however. Use of maneb has essentially ceased with 12 pounds used in 1999 and 27 pounds in 2000. Propargite was only used on 2% of Sonoma County grape acres in 2000 and 3500 fewer pounds were used, a 69% decrease. Fenbutatin-oxide use decreased 2895 pounds or 73%, from 3985 pounds applied in 1999 to 1090 pounds in 2000 (Appendix # 14). This task was completed.

Objective 4: Increase the numbers of acres that were being monitored using the Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form and reported in the Vineyard IPM Log.

Task 10: Growers to promote the SCGGA Vineyard IPM Log.

The Vineyard IPM Log has been promoted to both members and non-members at GAM throughout the summer by distributing fieldlog monitoring reports and graphs to attendees. The Vineyard IPM Log was demonstrated at the SCGGA Dollars & Sense Seminar in January 2001 and 2002, the Buyers & Sellers BBQ in May and again at the IPM Field Day in August. The IPM Field Specialist, Laura Breyer, is a respected PCA in the area and she recently submitted an article to *Practical Vineyard and Winery* magazine summarizing data on mites and mite predators from 2 years' information gathered from the 4 demonstration vineyards. This will be published in the spring of 2002, and the article will further demonstrate the value of standardized monitoring and record keeping as part of IPM.

Our primary goal remains to increase the number of growers who consistently monitor their vineyards and to encourage them to use our standardized Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form. Following the 2002 season, the 3-year summaries of pest and disease pressures and predator populations for the 4 demonstration vineyards will be available to help growers better understand how pests, diseases and predators react over time with different management strategies. We hope to lead growers, by example, to keep monitoring records for their own vineyards. Data from only 8 PCA's attending SCGGA-sponsored PCA Breakfasts, show they alone monitor 10,000 acres or about 20% of the county's bearing acreage. Many more acres are monitored by PCA's not surveyed. In addition, 117 Sonoma County growers responding to a North Coast and Pierce's Disease Task Force survey, report 64% had discussed IPM and 56% have changed their pest management practices. Thus our deficiency on this task is in recording monitoring data in the SCGGA database, not in increasing monitoring to guide pest management decisions.

Task Eleven: Involved providing phone, e-mail, and on-site support for individuals with questions concerning the use of the monitoring techniques, Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form or Vineyard IPM Log.

The IPM Coordinator provided phone, e-mail and on-site support throughout the year. In addition, the IPM Field Specialist and the UCCE Advisors, Lucia Varela and Rhonda Smith, were available to answer questions and share current research understanding at the GAM, Buyers and Sellers BBQ and IPM Field Day. The phone number and e-mail address for IPM Project Coordinator were available on flyers and handouts for easy access if growers had any questions or concerns. This task was successfully completed.

Task Twelve: Write Year 2 Final Report on this project. This will be completed with the filing of this document.

Task Thirteen: Similar to the original Task Four 4. In 2002 monthly Grower Appellation Meetings will be held at Demonstration Vineyards.

Although our DPR grant proposal was not renewed for a third year, we are planning to continue the IPM Project on a limited basis in 2002, supported in part with funding from US EPA.

Discussion

The Management Team provided excellent leadership in planning and implementing the IPM Program and met almost monthly for 2 years to plan and implement the IPM Program. They led by example, which surely contributed to the successes achieved. All members of the team also attended GAM each month and the IPM Field Days, demonstrating their commitment to IPM in Sonoma County grape production. The four Principle Investigator's are leading vineyard managers from Sonoma County who are on the cutting edge of grape growing. They are leaders in their appellations and key influencers to the surrounding growers. Laura Breyer is a successful PCA and IPM Field Specialist who effectively teaches IPM. Rhonda Smith and Lucia Varela from the University of California Cooperative Extension jointly provide a wealth of information and experience with their ongoing field studies in viticulture and IPM. The expertise and experience of all those involved ensured a successful project.

The Grower Appellation Meetings continued to attract good grower participation. The format of the meetings was flexible and although there was an agenda. The IPM Field Specialist was able to address other grower pest concerns either by soliciting information from the participants, UCCE Advisors or by drawing on her own expertise. As growers began to open up and relate their experiences and concerns, a sense of trust developed within the group enabling meaningful technology transfer to take place. By the end of the season, numerous growers were bringing multiple pest-laden leaves, mysterious cover crops/weeds, pesticide questions and solutions to share. With increased monitoring, growers are seeking reduced-risk options. Limited PUR data also show decreased use of the 4 Proposition 65 pesticides we sought to reduce.

The two Spanish-language Pest Identification sessions successfully reinforced grower and their employee's interest in IPM. The two Spanish-speaking volunteers, Rafael Jiminez and Daniel Robledo were keys to success of these meetings. The partnership and coordination between Lucia Varela, UCCE IPM Advisor, Daniel and Rafael allowed for excellent student participation and interaction. The handouts especially prepared for these sessions were well received by the Hispanic audience. Several growers/managers and vineyard workers commented on how well they liked the classes and encouraged us to hold them again.

The IPM Field Day at the Santa Rosa Junior College in August summarized the IPM Project. The participants saw the countywide overview for the season and gained an understanding of the value of historical pest and predator monitoring information through the 2-year graphs. Bringing together the four separate appellations allowed growers to interact throughout the county. Principle Investigators from the participating vineyards shared their experiences through an interview format with the IPM Field Specialist. This provided a model for how growers use monitoring information to make pest management decisions. Two grower/managers, who sent vineyard workers to the June Spanish-language Pest Identification classes, reinforced the importance of IPM training that contributes to workers' professional

development while providing worker recognition. Trained vineyard workers provide additional pest monitoring capabilities in addition to those achieved by weekly PCA monitoring.

SCGGA has led two new programs that were not included in the grant but demonstrate our commitment to IPM, i.e. the PCA (Pest Control Advisor) Breakfast Meetings, (Appendix # 8c), and the Vineyard Manager Lunches, two key influence groups in Sonoma County. Lucia Varela and Rhonda Smith from the UC Cooperative Extension joined approximately 10 PCA's at PCA Breakfasts from May through November 2001. Nick Frey and SCGGA Board Members attended Vineyard Manager Lunches with nearly 20 vineyard managers who met monthly from November through July 2001. The Vineyard Manager Lunches included sessions on pest management and on neighbor relations. Meetings of both groups provide additional opportunities to promote IPM, and to encourage monitoring and use of reduced-risk pesticides when pest management is needed.

The 2001 IPM Project did not meet our expectations for grower participation in reporting field monitoring results for inclusion in the Vineyard IPM Log. Growers/managers were reluctant to use the Fieldlog Monitoring Report forms and submit information to our database. Although a majority of growers or their PCA's monitor their vineyards, providing the data to SCGGA was not a priority. Confidentiality may be a problem. Fieldlog Monitoring Report Forms may also require a standardized pest/predator monitoring protocol not used by independent PCA's. Thus PCA's may be reluctant to adopt a new monitoring protocol that may take more time.

For growers to actively report data for inclusion in the Vineyard IPM Log, it is likely that special training sessions will be required. SCGGA will invite growers and PCA's to a training session in 2002 on the monitoring protocol being used in demonstration vineyards. We hope this will encourage growers to use the monitoring protocol and report the results for inclusion in the Vineyard IPM Log.

The IPM project has consistently presented reduced-risk alternatives to not only the 4 Proposition 65 pesticides targeted for reduction in use, but for pre-emergence herbicides and other grape pesticides under FQPA review.

Reduced-risk practices may cost more, but can nevertheless be cost effective. JMS Stylet Oil provided mite and powdery mildew suppression. Avoiding miticide application was a saving, but fungal control was more expensive than sulfur dust, and in two cases the mildew control was inadequate. Roundup® is more expensive than pre-emergence herbicides such as simazine, but it has benefits growers value, including environmental benefits. Very low rates of Roundup are used to "stunt" cover crops, thereby reducing competition for water and nutrients. In-row weed control used normal rates and was often followed by spot treatments using "weed-seeker" spray technology. The primary savings from IPM are when monitoring data suggest no treatment is needed.

These examples show that IPM is complex, and not a simple matter of pesticide selection. Growers have multiple objectives. They must produce quality grapes that meet the winery's expectations, and do so at a profit. Growers also have concerns about minimizing soil erosion, using pesticides only when necessary, sustaining a productive vineyard, maintaining a healthy environment, etc. Each grower balances these different considerations differently. The IPM project helps growers in their decision making by encouraging monitoring and by demonstrating reduced-risk pest controls that are effective. We are changing the "balance" that growers seek in their vineyards as evidenced by their involvement in the IPM project, their reliance on monitoring, and their reduced use of the 4 Proposition 65 pesticides we are trying to replace. Growers are not trying to minimize cost of pesticides; they are trying to achieve an optimal balance of many variables in their vineyards.

Summary & Conclusion

The second year of the Sonoma County Integrated Pest Management project (IPM) continued to attract over 80 growers per month to Grower Appellation Meetings (GAM) at 4 demonstration vineyards and about 100 growers and guests to the August IPM Field Day. Approximately 70 field workers attended two Spanish-language pest identification training classes, thereby increasing the pest and predator identification skills of vineyard workers. Vineyard workers provide additional monitoring capabilities for pests and diseases while working in the vineyards. Ninety-three percent of growers who attended GAM and returned IPM Project Evaluation forms, monitored for vineyard pests, diseases and natural predators. Participants (82 %) also indicated they are reducing use of the 4 targeted Proposition 65 fungicides and miticides if they have used them in the past and 95% of respondents have increased awareness of reduced-risk pest control options as a result of our GAM, IPM Field Days and newsletter articles.

The *Vineyard IPM Log* allows monitoring data from demonstration vineyards to be summarized in graphic form and provides visual tools for assessing season-long pest and predator populations. Growers value those seasonal and multi-year summaries, but none have voluntarily submitted monitoring data to SCGGA for inclusion in the *Vineyard IPM Log*. While this is a failure in achieving a project task, surveys of growers and PCA's show vineyard monitoring widely practiced in Sonoma County. Increasing vineyard monitoring was, after all, a primary goal.

The IPM project capitalized on an opportunity to help the growers/managers monitor their vineyards by producing the IPM Fieldbook (Appendix # 7). The key elements of a major pest with pictures of the pest, its damage, natural predators, if, any, and a calendar for monitoring the pest are provided in English and Spanish. Fieldlog Monitoring Report Forms were included to allow growers to record pest activity and damage in a way that is consistent with protocols being developed by the SCGGA's IPM Project. The Fieldlog Monitoring Reports can be entered into SCGGA's central Vineyard IPM Log (a computer database), or can be used as stand-alone monitoring sheets for their vineyards. The IPM Fieldbook also contains important references from local and state sources for growers to use.

The SCGGA IPM Project has successfully supported CDFA objectives to reduce use of 4 Proposition 65-targeted pesticides, it has involved Sonoma County growers in IPM, and it has increased grower pest monitoring and awareness of reduced-risk pesticide alternatives.

Appendices

- 1. Fieldlog Monitoring Report Form**
- 2. Evaluation Feedback 2**
- 3. Evaluation Feedback 1**
- 4. IPM Meeting Evaluation Summary**
- 5. Grower Appellation Meeting Initial Promotional Flyers**
- 6. Press Coverage of Grower Appellation Meeting Examples**
- 7. IPM Fieldbook**
 - Pest Monitoring Section:**
 - **7a How to use the Fieldlog Monitoring Report forms**
 - **7b Blank Field log Monitoring Report form**
(Appendix 1)
 - **7c Model Grape Leafhopper Damage**
 - **7d Pest I.D. Sheets (hard copies only)**
 - IPM Resources Section:**
 - **7e Retail Sources of Yellow Stick Traps**
 - **7f Selected Commercial Labs (hard copy only)**
 - **7g Sonoma County Viticulture Maps Order Form**
(hard copy only)
 - **7h U.C. Agriculture & Natural Resources catalog**
(hard copy only)
- 8. Grower Appellation Meeting Notes**
 - **8a April notes**
 - **8b May notes**
 - **8c PCA Breakfast Meetings**
 - **8d Spanish-Language Pest Identification Meeting**
 - **8e June notes**
 - **8f July notes**
 - **8g IPM Field Day notes**

- 9. Grape Leafhopper Count and Damage Graph (hard copy only)**
- 10. Mite Count and Damage Graph (hard copy only)**
- 11. Examples of Standardized Monitoring Report**
- 12. Early Season Pest Monitoring Data Sheet**
- 13. Late Season Pest Monitoring Data Sheet**
- 14. FQPA-Targeted Pesticide Usage Chart**
- 15. Evaluation Feedback 3**
- 16. DPR Grant/IPM Evaluation Form**

Fieldlog Monitoring Report

Sample Date _____

Grower _____

Block _____

Vineyard Sector

Pest**Grape Leafhopper**

(nymphs/leaf)

Hopper Leaf Damage0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3
- mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx
needed**Willamette Mite**

(% infested leaves)

Pacific Mite

(% infested leaves)

Mite Predators

(% leaves with predators)

Mite Damage Rating0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3
- mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx
needed**Thrips**

(% count shoots)

Powdery Mildew0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3
- mod. 4 - mod. to sev. 5 -
severe**Botrytis**0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3
- mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx
needed**Phomopsis**0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3
- mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx
needed**Canopy Water Status**

G = Green

DG = Dull Green

Y = Yellow

D = Defoliating

Trap Number**Blue-Green SS****Glassy-Winged SS**

Vineyard Sector				
Pest				
Grape Leafhopper (nymphs/leaf)				
Hopper Leaf Damage 0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3 - mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx needed	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Willamette Mite (% infested leaves)				
Pacific Mite (% infested leaves)				
Mite Predators (% leaves with predators)				
Mite Damage Rating 0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3 - mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx needed	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Thrips (% count shoots)				
Powdery Mildew 0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3 - mod. 4 - mod. to sev. 5 - severe	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Botrytis 0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3 - mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx needed	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Phomopsis 0 - none 1 - lt. 2- lt. to mod. 3 - mod. 4 - app. thresh 5 - Rx needed	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Canopy Water Status G = Green DG = Dull Green Y = Yellow D = Defoliating				
Trap Number	1	2	3	4
Blue-Green SS				
Glassy-Winged SS				

Fieldlog Monitoring Report
Sample Date

Grower _____
Block _____

Phenology
(Bud Break Bloom Fruit Set Bunch Close Veraison)

Notes:

Weed Comments:

Evaluation Feedback 2

Did you change any management decisions based on information and discussions at the meetings? If so, what were they?

Better understanding of IPM.

Used softer chemicals.

Got my timing

Less spray for mites.

We have stopped using pesticides and switched to mineral oils.

Reduced spray intervals of “hard” products.

Potentially, regarding leafhopper (increased damage tolerance) & phomopsis...increased awareness of risk

Bought motorized backpack for sulphur powder spraying.

We are producing organic grapes, introduced sulphur.

Ground cover

More monitoring, less unnecessary spraying.

Thinking of trying the cornmeal stuff under the vines.

More monitoring.

Reinforced decisions made.

Eliminate sulphur.

Used softer chemicals.

Less spray for mites.

More interest in changing.

Identify and eradicate.

Evaluation Feedback 1

Did the meetings/Field Day help in your understanding of Integrated Pest Management for vineyards?

Gave a lot of useful information.
Specific to area and management & had other vineyard managers to share observations.
More clear understanding of different problems and solutions.
Sometimes it is OK to do nothing.
GWSS video and film, various; monitoring reports from grower and UCD personnel.
Gave me a better understanding of the importance of beneficial insects.
Increased awareness of products available.
Specific about when, where, & how to do microscopic examination.
Understanding others approach.
The IPM approval of our vineyard.
Tolerance levels & combined approach.
Increased awareness of what's out there now. Good Displays
First hand reports on success/failure.
Gave a lot of useful information.
Defining what is meant by IPM Practices.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

Evaluation forms were mailed out to all those on the IPM Mailing list. Within three weeks 46 evaluation forms had been returned. Following are the results of the evaluations.

Nine people attended one Grower Appellation Meeting (GAM), 14 people attended 2 GAM, 10 people attended 3 GAM and 10 people attended 4 GAM. Over 75% of the respondents (34) learned of the Grower Appellation Meetings through Sonoma County Grape Growers Association (SCGGA) or Appellation Newsletters and 14 respondents (31%) learned of the GAM through direct mail flyers. Four heard via word of mouth and 3 read about the meetings in the newspaper, 3 heard in "other" ways. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Little new information" and 5 being "Excellent information I can use," one respondent rated the information gathered at the GAM as "1", one rated the information as "2", seven rated the information as "3", while 20 rated the information as "4", and 12 rated the information as "5". Seventy-six percent of the respondents indicated the GAM helped in their understanding of (IPM). "How" the respondents were helped in their understanding of IPM is compiled in Evaluation Feedback 1.

Three respondents used mancozeb (Dithane®) in the past, 6 have used Maneb, 3 have used Omite® and 5 have used Vendex®. Of the respondents, 14 out of 17 (82%) indicated the meetings helped them decrease the use of these materials. Thirty-six out of 38 (95%) respondents indicated the meetings increased their awareness of soft chemical options available. Forty (93%) monitor their vineyards regularly, 3 do not. Eighteen of the 40 who monitor regularly have a vineyard manager who monitors and feels the meetings help them to better understand monitoring results and recommendations. Twenty out of 39 (51%) of those responding increased their monitoring after attending the GAM, and 19 (49%) indicated they did not change their monitoring after attending the GAM. Zero decreased monitoring after attending the GAM. Eighteen (47%) of the respondents indicated they keep records of their monitoring results, while 20 (53%) indicated they did not keep records. Thirty-one (84%) of the respondents would like to have seasonal reports summarizing their monitoring data, while 6 would not. Twenty (43%) respondents changed management decisions based on information and discussion at the GAM and 26 (57%) did not change management decisions. Comments regarding management decisions are compiled in Evaluation Feedback 2.

In summary, the results of the final evaluation support our goals for the Pest Management Demonstration grant project. The primary goal of this project is to increase the use of field monitoring, which is the most fundamental tool of an Integrated Pest Management farming system and 51% of those responding to our final evaluation increased field monitoring this summer. Importantly, 93% of respondents are monitoring their vineyards regularly. The second goal is to encourage the use of reduced-risk fungicides and pesticides. Fourteen (82%) of the respondents indicated the GAM helped them to reduce the use of four materials targeted in the demonstration grant and 95% indicated an increase in awareness of soft chemical options that are available. Thirty-two respondents (86%) indicated they are interested in participating in next year's project, while 5 would not be interested. Comments regarding this are listed Evaluation Feedback 3.

The comments written by respondents help to further illustrate the impact of the Grower Appellation Meetings.

Grower Appellation Meeting Promotional Flyers

Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
5000 Roberts Lake Road, Suite A
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Get involved in Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- **COME TO THE GROWER MEETING IN YOUR AREA**
- **TALK ABOUT GRAPE GROWING**
- **DISCUSS CURRENT PEST MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS**

Invite a neighbor to attend. If they did not receive this notice but want to be added to the mailing list, Fax (206-0313) or E-mail their name and address to scggaipm@sonic.net.

Special Pest Identification and Monitoring training will be given in Spanish on June 6 & 7. Locations to be determined.

If you want to send your vineyard workers to one of these 2-hour sessions, fax or e-mail the number of workers you are likely to send. Number _____ Fax 206-0313 or e-mail scggaipm@sonic.net

CAWG Pest Management Alliance Field Days April 26 at Kendall-Jackson Wine Center; May 7 at Domaine Chandon Carneros; May 8 at Fetzer.

Programs will address sulfur dust application and weed control alternatives to simazine.

For additional information, call Sonoma County Grape Growers Association – 206-0603 or 829-3963

This project is funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

TO: Sonoma County Growers
FROM: SCGGA
RE: Grower Appellation Meetings: What's happening in your neighbor's vineyard? Learn what pest management decisions have been made.

Four vineyard managers and Laura Breyer, PCA, who is monitoring pests each week in each of the four appellation vineyards will share their experience with you. Come, enjoy a cookie and cup of coffee and talk about grape growing.

Pest identification training will be offered during the first half hour. Pest management discussion will follow. Come to both sessions or to only the discussion session. Bring your questions! The vineyard manager will discuss his management actions over the previous month based on monitoring data collected. Reduced risk pesticide options will be discussed for each pest needing treatment.

Focus will be on the pests and diseases that are of most concern to growers at that time in the growing season.

Meetings are open to all Sonoma County growers.

PCA/PCO hours have been requested for each monthly meeting. (1 hour for each set of meetings.)

Meeting Schedule:

HOST LOCATION	Russian River Duff Bevill Martini Ranch 2043 Laguna	Sonoma Valley Joe Votek Rancho Salina 17505 Mallard	Dry Creek John Clendenen Adams Vineyard 755 Canyon Rd.	Alexander Valley Keith Horn Reedy Ranch 2655 Hwy 128
I - Focus: Powdery Mildew, Phomopsis* & Shoot Blight	April 9 9:00-10:30 a.m.	April 10 9:00-10:30a.m.	April 11 8:00-9:30 a.m.	April 11 10:30-12:00 p.m.
II - Focus: Williamette Mites & Powdery Mildew	May 7 9:00-10:30 a.m.	May 8 9:00-10:30a.m.	May 9 8:00-9:30 a.m.	May 9 10:30-12:00 p.m.
III - Focus: Grape Leafhoppers	June 11 9:00-10:30a.m.	June 12 9:00-10:30a.m.	June 13 8:00-9:30 a.m.	June 13 10:30-12:00 p.m.
IV - Focus: Botrytis & Pacific Mites	July 9 9:00-10:30a.m.	July 10 9:00-10:30a.m.	July 11 8:00-9:30 a.m.	July 11 10:30-12:00 p.m.

**Phomopsis has been observed in several area vineyards. For more information on this disease and management, join us the second week of April at one of the above Grower Appellation Meetings or visit the SCGGA Website at www.scgga.com and click on Grower Toolbox.*

There is no charge for any session

This project is funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

IPM Grower Appellation Meeting Schedule 2001

Russian River Martini Ranch 2043 Laguna Pest ID 9:00 IPM Disc 9:30	Sonoma Valley Rancho Salina 17505 Mallard Pest ID 9:00 IPM Disc 9:30	Dry Creek Valley Adams Vineyard 755 Canyon Road Pest ID 8:00 IPM Disc 8:30	Alexander Valley Reedy Ranch 2655 Hwy 128 Pest ID 10:30 IPM Disc 11:00
April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12
May 7	May 8	May 9	May 9
June 11	June 12	June 13	June 13
July 9	July 10	July 11	July 11

Field Day – August 15

TO: Sonoma County Growers
FROM: SCGGA
RE: Grower Appellation Meetings: What's happening in your neighbor's vineyard? Learn what pest management decisions have been made.

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Meeting Schedule:

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I -Focus: Phomopsis, Cutworm, Thrips	April 9 9:00-10:30 a.m.	April 10 9:00-10:30a.m.	April 11 8:00-9:30 a.m.	April 11 10:30-12:00 p.m.
II - Focus: Willamette Mites & Powdery Mildew	May 7 9:00-10:30 a.m.	May 8 9:00-10:30a.m.	May 9 8:00-9:30 a.m.	May 9 10:30-12:00 p.m.
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IV - Focus: Botrytis & Pacific Mites	July 9 9:00-10:30a.m.	July 10 9:00-10:30a.m.	July 11 8:00-9:30 a.m.	July 11 10:30-12:00 p.m.

There is no charge for any session



This project is funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.



Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
5000 Roberts Lake Road, Suite A
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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FROM: SCGGA

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Focus will be on the pests and diseases that are of most concern to growers at that time in the growing season.

Meetings are open to all Sonoma County growers.

PCA/PCO hours have been approved for each monthly meeting.
(1 1/2 hours for each set of meetings.)

Meeting Schedule:

HOST LOCATION	Russian River Duff Bevill Martini Ranch 2043 Laguna	Sonoma Valley Joe Votek Rancho Salina 17505 Mallard	Dry Creek John Clendenen Adams Vineyard 755 Canyon Rd.	Alexander Valley Keith Horn Reedy Ranch 2655 Hwy 128
II - Focus: Williamette Mites & Powdery Mildew	May 7 9:00-10:30 a.m.	May 8 9:00-10:30a.m.	May 9 8:00-9:30 a.m.	May 9 10:30-12:00 p.m.
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IPM Field Day -- Tuesday, August 14, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm, 6225 Eastside Rd, Forestville. Reserve the date!

There is no charge for any session

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT MEETING

We'd like to invite you to the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association's 3rd IPM Meeting. Our goal is to share information with as many Sonoma County grape growers as possible. Invite a grower neighbor to join you as Laura Breyer, PCA, and vineyard managers discuss what has been happening in their vineyards.

Funded by CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation

Focus

- Powdery Mildew
- Grape Leafhopper
- Reduced-risk pest & weed control.
- Bring samples from your vineyard to share.

- Meetings are free to all Sonoma County grape growers.
- Attend meeting convenient to your location & schedule.
- For more information, call SCGGA at 206-0603 or e-mail: scggalpm@sonic.net.

Pest Monitoring reports available at meetings.
Grower input/questions encouraged.

Meeting Schedule:

Russian River Duff Beville	Sonoma Valley Joel Votek	Dry Creek John Clendenen	Alexander Valley Keith Horn dy Ranch 5 Hwy 128 13, 2001 0 a.m.
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S.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT MEETING

Funded by CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation

We'd like to invite you to the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association's 3rd IPM Meeting. Our goal is to share information with as many Sonoma County grape growers as possible. Invite a grower neighbor to join you as Laura Breyer, PCA, and vineyard managers discuss what has been happening in their vineyards.

Focus

- Botrytis
- Volunteer cover crops
- Beneficial refuges
- Your latest vineyard pest concern

- Meetings are free to all Sonoma County grape growers.
- Attend meeting convenient to your location & schedule.
- For more information, call SCGGA at 206-0603 or e-mail: scggalpm

Pest Monitoring reports available at meetings.
Grower Input/questions

Meeting Schedule:

Russian River
Duff Beville
Martini Ranch
2043 Laguna
July 9
9:15 a.m.

Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
Presents the 2nd Annual
Integrated Pest Management

FIELD DAY!



Date: Tuesday, August 14
Registration: 2:30 p.m.
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Place: SRJC Shone Farm
6255 Eastside Rd
Forestville

Highlights

- Vineyard Tours
- Informational Displays
- Wine Tasting
- IPM Fieldbooks, Posters, Websites & Resources
- UC Extension Specialists to answer questions
- Vineyard Managers and Laura Breyer will review 2001 Season
- CEU Credits Available

Contact person: Judy Tehtan

Phone: 707-206-0603
E-mail: scggalpm@sonic.com

Funding by the California
Department of Pesticide Regulation

Press Coverage Examples

Press Coverage of the Integrated Pest Management Meetings, Spanish-Language Pest Identification Meeting and IPM Field Day.

Wine-grape growers on steep learning curve

To implement more IPM practices

By Dan Bryant
Farm Press Editorial Staff

Wine-grape growers in Sonoma County have jumped on a steep learning curve, boning up for more judicious pesticide use and vineyard practices for quality wines, all the time getting to know each other a bit better.

Forestville-based PCA Laura Breyer has been doing the fieldwork since early 2000 for a project operated by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association (SCGGA) and funded under a grant from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The objective, Breyer says, is to encourage grape growers in the county to implement more IPM practices, including reduced use of Dithane, Vendex and Omite, all on the Food Quality Protection Act "hit list."



"These materials won't be available forever, and there are other ways of looking for solutions to problems. There's not a lot of Omite used in the county, but some growers still

feel they have to use it to clean up a mite problem, perhaps when they wouldn't have to. We have several alternatives now."

The SCGGA, established in the mid-1980s, represents about 40 percent of the county's 1,100 growers on 56,000 acres of vineyards. The membership also has categories for wineries.

Monthly meetings

Breyer holds monthly meetings from April through August at cooperating growers' ranches in four appellation areas of the county: Dry Creek Valley, Alexander Valley, Russian River Valley, and Sonoma Valley.

The meetings, usually attended by 75 to 100 persons, are forums for whatever pest control problems the growers encounter, along with tips on how to identify pests, the damage they cause, and how to deal with them.

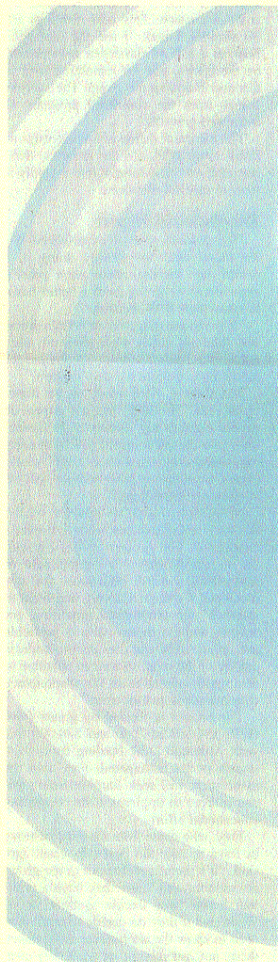
Between gatherings, Breyer monitors the four ranches each week for mites, mildew, leafhoppers, and thrips and adds observations to a database known as the IPM field log.

Customized for Sonoma County conditions, it is based on a model developed by the Lodi-Woodbridge Grape Growers Commission and shared with the Sonoma County group. The Sonoma County version seeks to codify the experiences of growing grapes in the county and take much of the guesswork out of pest management.

"Some who come to the meetings are old hands, and some are experts, but a lot of them are new growers very unsure of what to do. We have several relatively inexperienced growers in the county," said Breyer.

(See Grape, Page 8)

LAURA BREYER, monitoring for vineyard pests, confers with Nick Frey of Sonoma County Grape Growers Association. The association's project detailing IPM pest management information and methods has become popular with grape growers in the county.



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LOOKING AHEAD

To list your organization's special event in the Western Farm Press Calendar of Events, send details, including contact person, phone number, etc., to: Bob Frazer, WFP, P.O. Box 1420, Clarksdale, MS 38614 or e-mail: bob_frazer@intertec.com.

July 9-11: Fifth International Peach Symposium at UC Davis. For information call Scott Johnson at 559-646-6547, e-mail sjohnson@ucdavis.edu or visit the Web site at <http://conferences.ucdavis.edu>.

July 10: Almond/Pistachio Lunch Meeting at WSRD Diener Hall. Call Mark Freeman at (559) 456-7265.

July 11: Almond/Walnut Breakfast Meeting at Brooks' Ranch Restaurant, Fresno, Calif. Call Mark Freeman at (559) 456-7265.

Grape IPM study

(Continued from Page 7)

"Even those who have vineyard managers attend our meeting because they are interested in keeping up with the industry. It's a great time for brainstorming, and they must like it, because they keep coming back."

"So for someone who may have been using Dimethoate at a very low rate in the spring, regardless of what they were seeing in the vineyard, we are helping them think twice about doing it, while letting them know their vines can tolerate some leafhopper damage."

Breyer said last year's hour-long meetings were mostly lectures, followed by some discussion. This year meetings are 30 minutes longer. "I use the first half-hour as a sort of classroom presentation on the basics, and the remaining hour is discussion among the group. The success comes from the continued presence of interested growers."

The recurrent theme is finding ways to instill more IPM into the growers, who, she said, are increasingly able to apply it to their specific situations.

Decisions input

"For growers who are experienced and for PCAs who are already doing it, I would say hearing about each other's experiences is giving them a better basis to make their IPM decisions."

"It is encouraging, too, to be in a group and thinking about what steps to take, rather than being on their own. People get pretty excited about the peer support."

But there's more work to be done. "Last year," she said, "we got groups of people together and went over the basics. This year the participants will be sharing information and experiences, and I would expect as many or more people will be coming to the meetings."

Nick Frey, executive director of the SCGGA at Rohnert Park, echoes Breyer's comments. "The greatest value," he said, "is it demonstrates our commitment to supporting grower education for our members. We think it is very important to improve our production practices, not only to address issues such as pesticide use, which IPM can, but also to address quality of the crop, so we can continue to distinguish ourselves in the marketplace with premium-quality wine."

The project is funded by grants from DPR, \$50,000 in 2000 and \$30,000 this year. Although DPR funding for a third season is not anticipated, Frey said the association will seek funding from various sources to implement the continuing educational effort.

Frey, who came from the seed industry in Iowa to take the post two years ago, said, "It's important that our grape growers monitor and know they have a problem before they decide to treat for it. When and if they do decide to treat, they need to know the alternatives and balance them, not just relying on what they used last year or maybe what's cheapest. Some of the cheap compounds are not the best to be used in our community."

The project is timely in view of the increasing pressure from urbanization felt by Sonoma County growers. The association is proactive in its community relations with a "living near a vineyard" campaign, since many new residents in the

county are not familiar with agriculture.

The first phase is based on common courtesy and common sense. Novel, oversized informational postcards will be distributed, so the neighbors know what farming operations are being done and hopefully become supportive.

Rhonda Smith, Sonoma County farm advisor, wrote the project proposal with Lucia Varela, North Coast area IMP advisor with the University of California. They set out to fill the gap between informational needs of the industry and what regular workshops could accomplish.

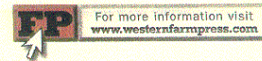
Facts to growers

Smith said the main strength of the project is getting data on economic thresholds for vineyard pests "out of the filing cabinet" and into the hands of growers attending the congenial meetings.

But beyond simply sharing the word, the attendees, she said, have developed a sense of not being alone in making their pest management decisions, along with a boost in confidence and empowerment, particularly when a pest or disease first starts to threaten.

She said the meetings have become a sort of "formalized coffee shop talk" to exchange information which, while anecdotal, is also supported by scientific measurements.

e-mail: dan_bryant@intertec.com



For more information visit
www.westernfarmpress.com

Helliker to speak at CPHA meeting

Paul Helliker, director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will be the keynote speaker at the California Plant Health Association's two-day pesticides regulations course scheduled July 31-Aug. 1 in Sacramento.

Co-hosted by the American Crop Protection Association, California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Consumer Specialty Products Association, the meeting will feature seven sessions, including breakout sessions on the second day of the course.

Course highlights will include sessions on pesticide registration and enforcement, data requirements and standards, processes for antimicrobial, biochemical, microbial and reduced-risk pesticides, concurrent registrations with USEPA and Canada, impacts of the Food Quality Protection Act, treated articles, internet sales, the Endangered Species Act and California's Proposition 65.

Meeting registration fees are \$225 for CPHA, ACPA and CSPA members; \$125 for growers, commodity groups and government personnel; and \$300 for all others. Registration fees include conference materials, luncheon and evening reception.

To register, contact the CPHA office at 1801 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814. CPHA may be reached by telephone at (916) 446-3316; by fax at (916) 446-3067; e-mail at vincew@cpha.net; or register online at www.cpha.net.



533 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, California 95401

(707) 526-5050
(707) 526-7429 (Main Fax)
(707) 545-5040 (News Fax)

www.newschannel50.com

Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
5000 Roberts Lake Road
Suite A
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Attn: Judy Tuhtan

Dear Ms. Tuhtan,

This letter is to confirm that News Channel 50 was present at the Santa Rosa Junior College on August 14th, 2001 for the coverage of the Shone Farm. The reporter present for said event was Melinda Meza. We aired the story in our 7 pm cast on the 14th and again in our morning cast on the 15th.

Thanks & best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF", written over a horizontal line.

Jessica Fanucchi
Front Desk
KFTY

DAILY ALMANAC

AGRICULTURE

Looking for best pest control

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation is accepting nominations for its 2001 IPM Innovator Awards.

The program honors Californians who find new and intriguing ways to reduce the risk and use of pesticides, said Paul Helliker, director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation, which regulates the use of pesticides to protect human health and the environment.

Integrated pest management is an approach that combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to effectively manage pest problems with minimal disruptions to the environment.

Among the IPM Innovator Awards criteria: a history of using biological and cultural pest control techniques to deal effectively with pests in a particular situation; use of pesticides only when necessary to achieve acceptable levels of control; and a demonstrated willingness to share technical information with others.

Nominations are due by May 2.

Information and nomination forms are post-

ed online at www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/ipminov/innovatr.htm, or call Charles Hunter at (916) 324-4264.

Wool clip deadline April 13

April 13 is the deadline for sheep producers to sign up for federal payments for the 2000 wool clip.

The payments are available through the Wool and Mohair Market Loss Assistance Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Qualified wool producers are eligible for payments of up to 40 cents a pound for wool shorn in 2000.

North Coast ranchers can sign up for the payments at Farm Services Agency Offices in Petaluma and Ukiah.

Farm Trails founder honored

Sonoma County Farm Trails has established an agricultural scholarship in memory of the late John Smith, the farm adviser who helped farmers found the direct marketing organization 29 years ago.

Smith died Sept. 24 in Auburn, where he

made his home after retiring as Sonoma County farm adviser. Since its founding, Farm Trails has been a market outlet for small-scale producers and a coalition representing the county's farm community.

The Farm Trails John Smith Scholarship will be given to the winner of a study in agriculture at SRJC. It is presented at the Farm Trails Grape Fair, which Smith helped revive in 1972 as farm adviser. This year is Aug. 11-12 at Ragle Park in Sebastopol.

Safest feed mill name

Willowbrook Feeds in Petaluma, "California's Safest Feed Mill" for 1999, was named by the California Grain and Feed Association group based in Sacramento.

The award, which recognizes Willowbrook's safety record, means the Petaluma mill was the safest of the 65 feed mills in California. The award is based on safety records and reports.

It's the second consecutive year Willowbrook Feeds had no employee accidents requiring medical attention.

ON THE AGENDA

Sustainable farming urged

The Wine Institute, the trade association of the state's wine industry, has approved a new program that will address the need to implement grape growing practices that are more sustainable throughout California.

The Wine Institute's newly approved Statewide Wine Community Responsibility Program will encourage farming practices that make grape growing more compatible with urban neighbors and environmental concerns.

Dennis Groth, owner of Groth Vineyards & Winery in the Napa Valley and chairman of the Wine Institute's communications committee, presented a vision statement for the program at a recent Wine Institute meeting.

A major component of the program will be a voluntary "Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Practices." The code, yet to be developed, will promote farming and winemaking practices that are sensitive to the environment, responsive to people living in communities where grapes are grown and economically feasible.

The final phase of the program will include member education and an annual public opinion poll to gauge the wine industry's image statewide.

Pest management meetings

A series of meetings on integrated pest management in vineyards will be held the week of April 9 in the various grape growing regions of Sonoma County.

The meetings, open to all interested growers, are aimed at reducing the use of toxic chemicals in grape production. Laura Breyer, an expert in integrated pest management, will speak at all four meetings. Grape growers versed in IPM also will discuss what they are doing in their vineyards.

Growers can attend any of the upcoming meetings. The meeting schedule: 9 a.m. April 9 at the Martini Ranch, 2143 Laguna Road in Santa Rosa; 9 a.m. April 10 at Rancho Salina Vineyard, 17505 Mallard Road, Sonoma; 8 a.m. April 11 at Adams Vineyard, 755 Canyon Road,

Geyserville; 10:30 a.m. April 11 at Ranch, 2655 Highway 128 in Geyserville.

The meetings are sponsored by the County Grape Growers Association by a grant from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Further information about the meetings is available from Frey, the association's executive director, at 206-0603.

Farming practices honored

Ulysses Lolonis of Lolonis Winery in Redwood Valley has been named George Zeni Vineyard Sustainable for the ecological farming practices that produce premium quality grapes.

The award is presented by the Winegrowers Alliance, an organization of growers and wineries that promotes the county's wine industry.

The award is named for the late George Zeni, a Mendocino County mountaineer who grew low-input, top-quality zinfandel on his historic property in Yorkville.

Hearldsbuurg Trib 3/28/01
IPM meetings in Geyserville

All Sonoma County grape growers are invited to attend discussions coming up in Geyserville on Integrated Pest Management, sponsored by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association.

On Wednesday, April 11, a meeting begins at 8 a.m. at

Adams Vineyard, 755 Canyon Road. Another meeting later that morning begins at 10:30 a.m. at Reedy Ranch at 2655 Highway 128.

Both meetings will offer pest identification training.

For more details call the SCGGA office at 206-0603.

SCFFA Announces April IPM Meetings *April 2001*

The Sonoma County Grape Growers Association is hosting a number of meetings in April. Open to all Sonoma County grape growers, the meetings will cover such topics as phomopsis and blue-green sharpshooter counts. PCA/PCO credit hours have been applied for, and the meetings are funded by California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

At each meeting, an Integrated Pest Management discussion will be led by Laura Breyer, PCA, and by a local vineyard manager. Pest identification training is offered for those interested. Following, a general

IPM discussion will begin.

The scheduled meetings will be held on the following dates: Monday, April 9, at the Martini Ranch Vineyard, 2143 Laguna Road, Santa Rosa, at 9:00 am; Tuesday, April 10, Rancho Salina Vineyard, 17505 Mallard, Sonoma, 9:00 am; Wednesday, April 11, at Adams Vineyard, 755 Canyon Road, Geyserville, at 8:00 am; and also on Wednesday, April 11, at Reedy Ranch, 2655 Hwy. 128, Geyserville, at 10:30 am.

For more information call the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association at (707) 206-0603.

Sonoma/Marin Farm Bureau News

Sebastopol Times 5-3-01

Rd. in Sebastopol. Call 545-1222.

Wine mixer, May 8 — The SEE Green Program will hold "The Greening of the Wine Industry Business Mixer" at 6:30 p.m. at Imagery Estate Winery in Glen Ellen. R.S.V.P. to 829-9331 or fax 829-2485.

IPM meeting, May 9 — The Sonoma County Grape Growers Association will hold an Integrated Pest Management workshop at 9 a.m. at Martini Ranch Vineyard at 2043 Laguna Rd. in Santa Rosa. The workshop will focus on Williamette mites and powdery mildew. Call 206-0603.

DAILY ALMANAC

AGRICULTURE

Fair & Apple Show Fairgrounds in Boonville.

The event is sponsored by the Mendocino-Lake Wool Growers and Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association to raise money for agricultural scholarships.

The event will include a lamb sausage booth and other food and drink vendors. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12 years and older. Kids under 12 get in for free.

SONOMA

Draft horses, mules perform

The North Coast Draft Horse and Mule Club will hold its annual Plowing Play Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at General Vallejo's home, a state historic park, on West Spain Street in Sonoma.

Draft horses and mules will perform pulling and driving exhibitions and show how fields were plowed in the old days. There will be hayrides, old farm equipment exhibits and harnessing and blacksmithing demonstrations. Admission is free.

SONOMA

Kiwanis awards go to youth

The Sonoma Kiwanis Club again will give breeding animals, cash awards and scholarships to deserving youngsters at this year's

Sonoma County Fair.

Kiwanis Club members annually give thousands of dollars worth of breeding animals to encourage young ranchers in livestock production. June 1 is the deadline for submitting applications for the awards.

Applications for the Kiwanis Ag Awards are now available at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds administration office, 1350 Bennett Valley Road in Santa Rosa.

Further information is available from Joe or Georgine Johnson at 996-2474.

Dogs used in disease fight

Specially trained parcel inspection dogs from the state agriculture department have joined the national effort to keep foot-and-mouth disease out of the United States.

In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, the dogs and their handlers have been assigned to international postal facilities throughout California.

The dogs are trained to detect meat products illegally sent through the mail. Meat from animals infected by the foot-and-mouth virus is one possible method of transmitting the disease.

There has not been an outbreak of foot-and-mouth in the United States since 1929, with strict controls and inspection credited for keeping this country free of the disease.

VITICULTURE

revenues from a decade ago. Ninety percent of U.S. wine exports are from California.

HEALDSBURG

Pest workshops for Hispanics

Two workshops will be held in June to help Spanish speaking workers identify bad bugs and other vineyard pests.

The workshops, which will be conducted in Spanish, will be held 8 to 10 a.m. June 6 at the Atwood Ranch, 12099 Highway 12 in Glen Ellen, and 8 to 10 a.m. June 7 at Jordan Vineyards, 781 Lytton Station Road, Healdsburg.

Experts will teach pest and predator identification so workers can be involved in early detection, which is important in utilizing an integrated pest management system.

Further information is available by calling the association at 206-0603.

GEYSERVILLE

Tour focus on habitat repair

A tour of the riparian restoration project on Lytton Creek near Geyserville is 9 a.m. to noon May 31.

The tour will begin at the Clos du Bois Vineyards office at 910 Lytton Station Road. The project involved the restoration of 15 acres of native riparian habitat on Lytton Creek.

The restoration was a joint project of Circuit Riders Productions, Clos du Bois Winery, Geyserville Buena Vista High School, Healdsburg High School's Center for Independent Study and Windsor High School.

DAILY ALMANAC

AGRICULTURE

at this year's California State Fair, Aug. 17 through Sept. 3 at Cal Expo in Sacramento.

The exhibit will showcase the county's wine and agricultural industries for the 900,000 visitors expected to attend the two-week fair. It will be among the feature booths in the Counties Exhibit Building at the State Fair.

Farm Trails is seeking groups to provide display items and informational brochures. Volunteers are needed for contacting agricultural organizations, collecting props and setting up the exhibit.

Those interested in helping can contact Farm Trails at 571-8288 or e-mail farmtrails@farmtrails.org.

Poultryman Shainsky honor

The late Allan Shainsky, founder of Petaluma Poultry Processors, is being honored posthumously by the Organic Trade Association for his leadership in raising organic chickens and creating national standards for the organic poultry industry.

The association's Pioneer Award recognizes Shainsky's vision and commitment to excellence in business and animal husbandry. In 1999 Petaluma Poultry Processors was the first chicken producer in the United States to

receive USDA approval for an organic label. Shainsky developed his company's Rosie the Organic Chicken, Rocky the Range Chicken and Rocky Jr.

Shainsky was born on a chicken ranch in Sonoma in 1931. He died one year ago.

4-H dairy cows sell well

The 14 heifers sold in the annual 4-H Dairy Replacement Heifer Sale averaged \$2,496 per head.

The sale was held June 24, the last day of the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma. The 11 head of Holsteins in the sale averaged \$2,581. Two Jerseys averaged \$2,275. One Guernsey brought \$2,000.

India McEvoy, a member of the Green Valley 4-H Club, owned the champion 4-H dairy replacement. Her heifer sold for \$2,650 on a bid from Cal Coast Dairy Systems.

Andrea Balistreri, a member of the Fern Grove 4-H Club, had the high-selling heifer in the sale. Her Holstein brought \$3,650. The buyer was Terry Zimmerman and Sonoma—Marin Veterinary.

The 4-H Replacement Heifer Program is a joint venture of the University of California Cooperative Extension and local dairy ranchers.

VITICULTURE

ernet sauvignon grapes in the Alexander Valley, a viticultural region now recognized for its world-class cabernet wines.

Young, deeply involved in the wine industry for more than 40 years, was instrumental in developing higher standards for grape quality.

Tickets for the Young tribute are \$30. Tickets are available at the North Coast Wine & Visitor Center at 105 North Cloverdale Boulevard or by calling 894-0818.

Pest management seminars

A series of educational meetings for grape growers will be held in July.

The meetings will focus on reducing chemical use through integrated pest management. The meetings will cover such topics as botrytis, volunteer cover crops and beneficial refuges.

The meetings will be held on the following dates: July 9 at 9 a.m. at Martini Ranch Vineyard, 2043 Laguna Road in Santa Rosa; July 10 at 9 a.m. at Rancho Salina Vineyard, 17505 Mallard Road, Sonoma; July 11 at 8 a.m. at Adams Vineyard, 755 Canyon Road in Geyser-

ville; July 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Reedy Ranch, 2655 Highway 128, Geyserville.

Laura Breyer, a pest control specialist and expert on integrated pest management, will conduct the meetings with assistance from local growers. The meetings are sponsored by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association and open to all interested growers. More information is available by calling the Grape Growers Association at 206-0603.

Wine Institute elections

Wine Institute directors have been elected to represent the various districts of the state.

The directors serving Sonoma County are Louis M. Foppiano, Judy Jordan, Tom Klein and Laurence Sterling.

The Napa County directors are Dennis Groth, Kathleen Heitz Myers, Tom Shelton, Robert Steinhauer and Richard Ward.

Jesse Tidwell of Zellerbach Winery in Ukiah will represent the Northern District, which includes Mendocino and Lake counties. The Wine Institute is a trade association that works on public policy issues for the state's winemakers.

7-5-01 Sonoma West Times + News

Grape growers to host meeting on integrated pest management

SANTA ROSA — A meeting on integrated pest management will be hosted next week by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association. Open to all Sonoma County grape growers, the meeting will cover such topics as botrytis, volunteer cover crops and beneficial refuges.

Laura Breyer, PCA, will lead pest identification for those interested, followed by a general IPM discussion. Please bring samples of pests and weeds from your vineyard for the group to analyze.

The scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, July 9, at Martini Ranch Vineyard, 2043 Laguna Rd., Santa Rosa, at 9 a.m.

The Grape Growers Associ-

ation has also announced a new effort to enhance communication between winegrowers and vineyard neighbors.

Residents living near a Sonoma County vineyard will soon be receiving a serious of oversize postcard from their grape-growing neighbors, said Nick Frey, executive director of the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association.

The association "is developing these informational postcard for new and long-time residents to tell them what grape growers are doing in their vineyards at the time of the mailing," said Frey.

The information will also be available on the SCGGA website at www.scgga.org.

Press Democrat

7-22-01

VITICULTURE

IPM field day for growers

The Sonoma County Grape Growers Association will hold its second annual Integrated Pest Management Field Day starting at 3 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm, 6255 Eastside Road, near Forestville.

The field day is open to all interested growers, with registration for continuing education credit starting at 2:30 p.m.

The field day will include a recap of the Integrated Pest Management Demonstration Project funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. IPM expert Laura Breyer and vineyard managers involved in the project will review the 2001 season and compare it with last year's experiences.

Informational displays and a tour of the SRJC vineyard will follow the presentation.

A demonstration of the Sonoma County IPM database used to summarize the summer's results from each vineyard will be presented. Vineyard monitoring reports from each of the four cooperating vineyards, IPM manuals, posters, Web sites and other resources

will be displayed. UC Cooperative Extension specialists will be available to answer questions.

For more information, call the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association at 206-0603 or e-mail scggaipm@sonic.net.

Beckstoffer adds managers

Beckstoffer Vineyards has hired three new managers to oversee the company's vineyards in Mendocino County.

Joining Beckstoffer's Mendocino Vineyard Co. in Ukiah are Joseph Hurlbut, who is the business manager for operations in both Lake and Mendocino counties; Art Vிராமontes, who is vineyard manager; and Kathleen Aasen, office manager.

Vineyard cover crops

A workshop on vineyard cover crops will be held 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 8 at the Calplains Vineyard River Ranch, 8500 Eastside Road in Windsor.

The workshop is sponsored by the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, a group

Streets close for parade

Several streets will be temporarily closed Wednesday for the City of Sonoma's Fourth of July Parade.

To reduce congestion and confusion at the start of the parade, First Street East north of Spain Street will be closed to traffic after 8:30 a.m. so that First Street East can be used to stage the first elements of the parade.

First Street West north of Spain Street will be closed after 9 a.m. to make traffic

control at the Plaza feasible.

After 9 a.m., access to the parade marshaling area east of the Veterans' Building will only be available from Second Street East via Blue Wing Drive. Access is also available via the bike path.

The Sonoma Community Center encourages car pooling, if possible, in order to reduce the number of cars arriving.

For more information on the parade details, see A11.

Identifying vineyard pests

A session for grapegrowers throughout Sonoma County will be held in Sonoma Valley at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 10.

Sponsored by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association, the meeting will cover such topics as botrytis, volunteer cover crops and beneficial refuges. Laura Breyer will lead pest-identification training for those interested, followed by a gen-

eral discussion of integrated pest management. Participants should bring samples of pests and weeds from their vineyards for the group to analyze.

The workshop will be held at Rancho Salina Vineyard, 17505 Mallard in Sonoma Valley. For more information, call the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association at 206-0603.

vineyards so that we deliver on the promise we make — "We produce the grapes that make the wines that win the awards."

These marketing programs are supported in part with funds from the Sonoma County Transient Occupancy Tax and your Board of Supervisors.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT GRANT RENEWED FOR 2001

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has funded the SCGGA Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration grant for 2001. This second-year funding will support grower appellation meetings at the same four vineyards as in 2000. The format will include 30 minutes of pest identification and monitoring training for those interested in that, followed by an hour of pest management discussion based upon pest pressures at the demonstration vineyard or in participant vineyards. Growers can discuss the need for pest control and pest control options. Laura Breyer will again lead the discussions. In addition, a pest identification training session for vineyard workers will be given in Spanish and an IPM Field Day will be held in August.

If you did not attend a Grower Appellation Meeting in 2000 and would like to receive reminders of the monthly meetings, please contact Nick Frey (frey@sonic.net or 206-0603). Growers can also submit weekly pest monitoring data to SCGGA. The data will

be entered in the SCGGA IPM Field Log and monthly reports and growing season summaries will be provided to participating growers. (All individual data will be kept confidential.)

"I appreciate the grower support for the IPM program in 2000," said Nick Frey, Executive Director. "Our program's success led to SCGGA receiving an IPM Innovator Award in 2000 and second-year funding of our IPM program."

DOLLARS AND \$ENSE SEMINAR

The 10th Annual Dollars and \$ense Seminar was held on January 11th at the Luther Burbank Center with 350 in attendance. Participants heard presentations from Bill Turrentine with insights on grape supply and demand, Dave Ready on the wine market, a panel discussion on building healthy soils as a foundation for quality grape production, and information from Eugenia Keegan and Brian Clements on marketing your grapes and working with your winery customers. SCGGA introduced its two new publications *the Common Courtesy*, *Common Sense* brochure and the postcard packet, *Exploring the Appellations of Sonoma County*. The trade show featured 36 SCGGA Associate and Sponsor members. On sale for the first time, was the newest edition of *The Purple Book*.

SCGGA would like to thank Pacific Coast Farm Credit for providing gifts for the seminar's speakers.

IPM MEETING SCHEDULE 2001:

Russian River Martini Ranch 2043 Laguna	Sonoma Valley Rancho Salina 17505 Mallard	Dry Creek Adams Vineyard 755 Canyon Rd.	Alexander Valley Reedy Ranch 2655 Hwy 128
April 9 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	April 10 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	April 11 Pest ID 8:00 a.m. IPM Disc 8:30 a.m.	April 11 Pest ID 10:30 a.m. IPM Disc 11:00 a.m.
May 7 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	May 8 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	May 9 Pest ID 8:00 a.m. IPM Disc 8:30 a.m.	May 9 Pest ID 10:30 a.m. IPM Disc 11:00 a.m.
June 11 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	June 12 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	June 13 Pest ID 8:00 a.m. IPM Disc 8:30 a.m.	June 13 Pest ID 10:30 a.m. IPM Disc 11:00 a.m.
July 9 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	July 10 Pest ID 9:00 a.m. IPM Disc 9:30 a.m.	July 11 Pest ID 8:00 a.m. IPM Disc 8:30 a.m.	July 11 Pest ID 10:30 a.m. IPM Disc 11:00 a.m.

Field Day – August 15th

- Newspaper and magazine articles. The Director of Member Services keeps a file from six daily/weekly newspapers as well as several magazines of all articles mentioning or issues related to SCGGA. With the "busyness" of this past year, ten files are bulging with these press and media articles.
- Services to members: This SCGGA office often handles as many as 20 phone calls and 15 e-mails a day, as compared to only a few calls per week several years ago. The database is updated regularly so that mailings are accurate and timely. Our office continues on a daily basis to be a resource for members.
- Ag Day: This committee organized and staffed the two-day event. Over 3000 students and teachers came to the Fairgrounds to learn more about agriculture.
- Brochures: Brochures are mailed internationally to promote Sonoma County grapes.

SCGGA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As SCGGA begins its eighteenth year, we welcome three new board members:

Duff Bevill has been farming wine grapes in the Dry Creek, Alexander and Russian River Valleys since 1973. He started his own management company in 1976. Together with his wife, Nancy, he currently manages 700 acres of wine grapes in Sonoma County. Primary clients include Dry Creek Vineyard, Lambert Bridge Winery and Mazzocco Winery. The Bevills own or lease sixty acres of their own in the Dry Creek and Russian River Valleys. For a second year, Duff is participating as a Principal Investigator for SCGGA's IPM project.

Becky Jenkins and her husband, Clarence, have owned Madrone Vineyard Management since 1987. Clarence is a third generation grapegrower. Becky has been their office manager and has worked in the field, particularly during harvest, enjoying driving the tractor. All of the vineyards they farm are in the Sonoma and Carneros appellations. They are both Associate and Grower Members of SCGGA, members of Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance, and Becky is the Associate Director of Southern Sonoma RCD. Becky has also been a member of SCGGA's Government and Community Relations Committee for the past two years.

Vicki Michalczyk and her husband, Paul, moved to Sonoma County in 1990 and found their dream home site on a cold windswept hill near Freestone. Hawk Hill Vineyard, located in the very southwest corner of the Russian River appellation, has 14 acres planted in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Vicki brings years of experience as a business owner and in personnel management to SCGGA. Vicki has been active with the Russian River Valley Winegrowers and also volunteers as "back room" staff for several wine competitions. Vicki has served on the Government and Community Relations Committee for SCGGA during the past year.

The strength of SCGGA is in the leadership of the SCGGA Board. The incoming Board members have all participated in SCGGA committees and have been members of SCGGA for years. This depth of commitment and knowledge is essential to SCGGA's continued leadership.

Our retiring Board Members, George Barnwell of G B Vineyards, Wells Wagner of Sylvan Hills Vineyard, and Joe Votek of Loma del Sol Vineyards, provided leadership and vision for SCGGA. SCGGA expresses its appreciation for their willingness to share of their time and talents for the past six years with SCGGA.

SCGGA IPM FIELD DAY 2001

Grape growers are invited to SCGGA's second Integrated Pest Management Field Day to be held at Shone Farm, 6255 Eastside Road, on Tuesday, August 14th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration for CEU hours opens at 2:30 p.m.

The Field Day will include a recap of the IPM Demonstration Project that was funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Vineyard managers involved in the IPM Project and Laura Breyer, PCA, will review the 2001 season and compare it with the 2000 experiences. Interesting displays and a vineyard tour of an innovative weed control project will follow. A demonstration of the Sonoma County IPM database used to summarize the summer's results from each vineyard will be presented. Vineyard monitoring reports from each of the four cooperating vineyards, IPM Manuals, posters, web sites, and other resources will be displayed. UC Cooperative Extension specialists will be available to answer questions.

To register, or for more information about the IPM Field Day, call SCGGA at (707) 206-0603 or e-mail scggaipm@sonic.net. PCA/PCO credit will be available. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

WINERY DONATIONS TO SCGGA EVENTS

SCGGA would like to thank the following wineries for their generous response to the request for donation of wine to support events in the coming twelve months. The wines were served at the SCGGA Buyers and Sellers BBQ, and will be served at the IPM Field Day, SCGGA's Dollar's and Sense Seminar, UCCE's Sonoma County Grape Day and the Unified Symposium Grand Tasting (a joint project of SCGGA and SCWA). As we pour this outstanding collection of wines at these events, SCGGA will continue to promote Sonoma County as a premier wine-growing region in the world.

Acorn Winery	Geyser Peak	Michel-Schlumberger
Arrowood Winery	Glen Ellen	Murphy Goode
Audubon Cellars	Gloria Ferrer	Pedroncelli
Bannister Wines	Hafner Winery	Peterson
Barefoot Cellars	Hanna	Pezzi King
Beaulieu Vineyard	J Wines	Phillip Staley Winery
Benzinger Family	Johnson Winery	Piper Sonoma
Buena Vista	Keegan	Ravenswood
Carmenet	Kenwood	Rodney Strong
Chateau St. Jean	Kendall-Jackson	Rosenblum Cellars
Chateau St. Jean	Wine Estates	Silver Oak
Clos du Bois	Korbel	Simi
BR Cohn	Lambert Bridge Winery	Stonestreet
Davis Bynum	Ledson	Taft Street
De Loach	Louis Martini	Topolos
Domain Chandon	Marietta Cellars	Trentadue Winery
Dry Creek Vineyard	Maranzas Creek	Valley of the Moon
Forchini Winery	Meeker	

WAGE AND BENEFIT SURVEY 2001 FARM EMPLOYERS LABOR SERVICE

By Nick Frey, SCGGA Executive Director

Farm Employers Labor Services (FELS) has provided Sonoma County results from its wage and salary survey for 2001. Average wages for all Sonoma County workers exceeded \$8.04/hr, well above minimum wage levels. Supervisors averaged over \$50,000/yr. Many workers receive benefits in addition to the basic wages. The most popular benefit is worker bonuses, followed closely by holiday pay.

Average wage rates by job title are as follows:

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Salary Average</u>	<u>Hrly Average</u>	<u>Replies</u>
Supervisor	\$4265	\$19.63	28
Foreman	\$3652	\$12.71	36
Shop mechanic I	\$3500	\$17.37	24
Shop mechanic II	-	\$11.44	9
Tractor I	-	\$10.63	32
Tractor II	-	\$9.87	28
Pruner	-	\$8.98	25
Equipment operator	-	\$13.44	15
General Labor I	-	\$9.00	34
General Labor II	-	\$8.04	28

Respondent benefits offerings are as follows

(% = percentage of workers employed by respondents):

<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Year Round</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
Medical: Employee only	42.9%	4.1%
Medical: EE & dependents	30.6%	6.1%
Vacation pay	53.1%	4.1%
Holiday pay	69.4%	28.6%
Average # paid holidays	6	5
Pension or profit sharing	36.7%	4.1%
Housing Cost shared by employee	55.1%	30.6%
Utilities provided	46.9%	24.5%
Bonuses	71.4%	30.6%
Sick Pay benefits	28.6%	-
Written employee policies	57.1%	-

I hope you find these statistics useful as you review your wage and benefit plans for your business. They also provide useful data to compare wage and benefit rates with other Sonoma County industries. I encourage all employers to respond to the FELS 2002 Salary and Benefit Survey.

SCGGA ELECTS OFFICERS

The Board of Directors for SCGGA has completed the election of officers for the 2001-2002 year. In the August newsletter issue, SCGGA's new President, Hector Bedolla, introduced himself and his goals for this year. The Board elected Mark Houser as First Vice President and Becky Jenkins as Second Vice President. Continuing will be Nick Frey as Executive Director, Rich Thomas as Secretary Emeritus, Mike Baldus as Treasurer, Francine Baldus as Director of Member Services, and Jay Behmke as Legal Counsel.

The Chairpersons for the committees are as follows:

Executive: Hector Bedolla

Finance: Mike Baldus

Government and Community Relations:

Bonnie Barnes and Bob Hopkins

Marketing: Mike Draxton and John Pelkan

Member Services: Pat Herron and Mark Houser

Research: John Clendenen

SCGGA members are invited and encouraged to participate on committees. Please contact Francine Baldus at (707) 829-3963 for more information.

BIRD CONTROL THAT WORKS!

By Nick Frey, SCGGA Executive Director

Thanks to a donation of 1000 feet of bird netting by Stevenson Supply and Tractor Co., the demonstration vineyard at the Wine Center still has some grapes! The local bird population has traditionally consumed all the grapes, usually just before harvestable brix levels are reached. This year, rows covered with bird netting are ripening normally, while the rest of the vineyard has been completely stripped.

The dramatic results demonstrate the value of bird netting if birds threaten your vineyard. Netting may be more expensive than Mylar strips, propane cannons or distress calls, but it is effective!

PROGRESS REPORT ON 2001 IPM PROJECT

By Judy Tuhtan, IPM Coordinator

The second year of the SCGGA Integrated Pest Management Program is winding down and encouraging findings are emerging. This program is making a difference to growers/managers. Surveys and feedback from 42 program participants show that IPM is being effectively taught. Those growers/managers who have used FQPA-targeted pesticides, Dithane, Omite, Vendex and maneb, responded that they have or will decrease their use! Eighty-three percent had increased their awareness of alternative pest control measures with lower environmental risk and 86% are monitoring their vineyards. Many growers reported having changed their pest management decisions after attending the series of IPM meetings.

The early morning IPM meetings have helped those who returned our evaluation form to better understand monitoring results. While 40% of growers/managers are keeping records of their monitoring results, most want to receive seasonal pest monitoring summaries from the Vineyard IPM Log.

Unfortunately, no growers have volunteered to use the SCGGA Fieldlog Monitoring Report and share data for inclusion in the Vineyard IPM Log. **SCGGA will provide growers with seasonal pest and predator summaries if monitoring data are submitted.**

Best of all, an overwhelming 95% are interested in participating in next year's project. The **IPM Fieldbook** is available for sale to interested growers. Contact Judy Tuhtan at (707) 206-0603 for information about the Fieldbook or the IPM program.

VINEYARD ORDINANCE DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

The Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO) requires work to stop October 15th and erosion control measures to be in place for new vineyards by November 1st. Replanted vineyards need erosion and sediment controls in place by November 15th. This includes having cover crops seeded and mulch or other erosion control measures in place. Level 2 and 3 vineyard development requires that your engineer issue a letter stating the erosion control plan has been installed according to plan (or the plans have been modified by your engineer to correspond with "as built" solutions). Once Gail Davis at the Agricultural Commissioner's office receives that letter, you must make an appointment for final inspection. All Level 1 vineyards must also have a final inspection. Make your appointments early and avoid the rush!

Vineyard owners and developers need to read their erosion control plans carefully and insure all specifications have been fulfilled, e.g. straw on all exposed slopes, the designated cover crop seed mix has been planted, and the details for inlets and outlets are installed as indicated on the plans. These simple steps will allow for a trouble-free final inspection!

WELCOME NEW SCGGA MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

BASF Corporation
Sprint Copy Center
Weed Badger Division

GROWER MEMBERS

Paradise Ridge Vineyard
Poole Vineyards
Saltonstall Estate
Stonecliff Vineyards and Winery LLC

SPONSOR MEMBER

Carmenet Winery

VINEYARD SITE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

The University of California Cooperative Extension has just published a guide to assist prospective vineyard owners and developers in assessing a site and identifying which regulations and regulatory agencies have jurisdiction regarding the development of the vineyard. An Agency Directory, complete with contact information, is included. The free guide may be obtained at the UCCE office at 2604 Ventura Avenue, Room 100, Santa Rosa or by calling (707) 565-2621.

GWSS FUND DONATION

The wine community has again responded generously to provide needed funding to fully implement our Sonoma County GWSS education program. Grower and winery donations are the sole source of funds for this program to support the Ag Commissioner's efforts at monitoring and early detection of GWSS should it arrive in Sonoma County. The goal is to enlist the support of the local community in looking for GWSS infestations and to report those to the Ag Commissioner so that an effective abatement program can be implemented.

To date, these funds have provided the web site www.bugspot.com, the large and small posters with pictures of the GWSS, the GWSS refrigerator magnet, curriculum for schools, and all of the public outreach needed for the program. Our public relations firm has been at the Santa Rosa Farmers Market, county fairs, SCGGA events and many other special events to inform the public about the GWSS threat to Sonoma County's ecology and economy.

An important shift in public opinion has occurred since this educational process began. At first, the public regarded the GWSS as only a threat to grapes. As a result of the publicity from the protocol agreement and the educational information, the public is responding with greater interest and cooperation. It is critical that the GWSS be recognized as a danger to over 200 plants, including beloved native and landscaping trees and shrubs.

SCGGA is extremely grateful for the donations of funds, and extends a thank you to all donors. In order to use all the funds received for the GWSS educational fund, no individual thank you notes will be sent. If you have not contributed, please send your check to GWSS Fund, P.O. Box 1959, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

SOIL AND EROSION WORKSHOPS

SCGGA, in cooperation with Sotoyome RCD, will be holding workshops in English and Spanish on the installation and maintenance of vineyard soil and erosion control measures. This workshop series is tentatively scheduled for November, with times and locations to be announced.

SCGGA NEWS

P.O. BOX 1959 • SEBASTOPOL, CA 95473
WEBSITE: WWW.SCGGA.ORG



ELEVENTH ANNUAL DOLLAR AND SENSE SEMINAR

Dollars and Sense will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2002, at the Luther Burbank Center. The focus this year will be on grape and wine markets. Barry Bedwell, of Joseph W. Ciatti, LLC, will lead off and share his insights on the market prospects for Sonoma County grape growers. Other speakers will discuss making grape quality work for winemakers and growers, updating Sonoma County wine sales, avoiding the cash crunch at the winery, and building the consumer base for wines. It promises to be a full day of information. Associate and Sponsor members are invited to participate in the Trade Show.

Registration information will be in the mail in early December. Cost, including lunch, will be \$60 for SCGGA members and \$120 for non-members who register by January 10th. An additional \$20 will be charged for late registrations. Register early!

NOTES ON THE IPM PROJECT SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS AND EXPANSIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

By Laura Breyer, PCA

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project has completed two years. What has happened and what have we learned in our cooperators' vineyards? Have pests been successfully managed without using four Proposition 65 pesticides — Vendex® (fenbutatin-oxide), dimethoate, Omite® (propargite), and Dithane M-22® or M-45® (maneb or mancozeb)? The term "PI's" or principal investigators will be used for the four vineyard managers who have coordinated the IPM project and held the seminars in their vineyards.

Since phomopsis is not a major issue in any of the four IPM Project blocks, the PI's found it easy to avoid Dithane. Good alternative fungicides to Dithane for other diseases exist, such as the strobilurins and other new materials for botrytis. For growers who routinely use Dithane early in the season, you may want to consider alternative management practices since this material is under scrutiny by the Department of Pesticide Regulation as a potential carcinogen and will likely not be available in the long run. A suggested procedure to reduce phomopsis inoculum is to prune out infected wood and apply lime sulfur as a delayed dormant treatment in severe, chronic phomopsis areas. If you are not

in a severe, chronic phomopsis area, try not applying Dithane in a block or a few rows. You might be surprised at how little difference there is at the end of the year from the untreated vines. Timed correctly, sulfur, Bordeaux mixes, strobilurins and other materials can be fairly successful against phomopsis. For that matter, even Dithane is only a protectant and to be effective needs to be applied before a rain.

Do you use Dithane and still see significant phomopsis in your vineyard? You may be able to get ahead of the game by paying closer attention to timing treatments before rain. In fact, I would expect in vineyards of equal pressure that a grower using well-timed copper/sulfur mixes before rain would have less phomopsis than a grower using Dithane after rain. Of course, putting on materials *before* rain is contrary to the belief that rain washes the material off. Actually, rain initiates phomopsis and powdery mildew thrives in the conditions following a rain event. If there is little or no material on the vines when it rains, the fungi take off and are growing before you can treat with a fungicide. By applying the materials before rain, the fungi have a difficult time getting started because rain does not wash all the material off and material often remains in the protected spots that are the most vulnerable to fungal growth. Something to think about for next season.

Managing mites is challenging since we are commonly dealing with two species, Pacific and Willamette, that have different damage characteristics, population dynamics, and predator relationships. Not using Omite was easy for the PI's since they were reluctant to use it before the project began. Each year and each IPM Project block had a different mite scenario. One strategy that had success was trading early sulfur applications for JMS Stylet-Oil®. Soft materials like pesticidal soap (M-Pede®), summer oil or cinnamaldehyde (Valero®) have efficacy against mildew and soft-bodied pests including mites and leafhopper nymphs while leaving the beneficials relatively unscathed.

Mites often increased in the PI's blocks when sulfur dusting began. For problem mite blocks, growers may want to consider using other mildew materials such as wettable sulfur or sterol inhibitors to avoid exacerbating mite populations.

Two new lower-risk mite materials are finding a place in IPM management strategies. Agri-Mek® (avermectin) and Nexter® (pyridaben, Pyramite®) worked well for mite populations that showed signs of building to excessive levels. They tend to work more slowly than Omite, Vendex or Kelthane®, so treatments cannot be delayed until mite populations are high throughout much of the canopy.

IPM management strategies are generally more straightforward with leafhoppers than mites. Early season populations can be easily monitored and usually reflect later season populations and damage. We've been working on developing a quantitative canopy damage measurement to help make treatment decisions based on the amount of canopy lost. What we have found is that people seem to overestimate the amount of damage that they think they see. When treatment is necessary, many growers find Provado® (imidacloprid) is an excellent material to use instead of dimethoate.

New on the agenda for next year will be the exclusion of six more materials under scrutiny by US Environmental Protection Agency. These materials are: simazine (Princep®); oxyfluorfen (Goal®); fenamiphos (Nemacur®); dimethoate; diazinon (Spectracide®); and carbaryl (Sevin®). Nemacur, diazinon and carbaryl are not routinely used in vineyards. Simazine and Goal, though, are the mainstays of many winter weed control programs. Our PI's have made a commitment not to use these two pre-emergent herbicides in the IPM Project blocks. We can look forward to the challenge of finding new ways to manage weeds while working with our four PI's and the forward-thinking growers who attend our IPM Grower Appellation Meetings. IPM Grower Appellation Meetings will resume in April 2002. Join us!

REDUCING FQPA-TARGETED PESTICIDE USE

By Nick Frey, SCGGA Executive Director

The SCGGA Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program will have a broadened emphasis in 2002 due to grant support from the US Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to Dithane® (mancozeb), Omite® (propargite), Vendex® (fenbutatin-oxide) and dimethoate, we will be looking at ways to reduce the use of diazinon, Nemacur® (fenamiphos), Sevin® (carbaryl), Princep® (simazine), and Goal® (oxyfluorfen). These pesticides are targeted for review under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Those reviews could result in label changes or mandated phase-out, such as is occurring for methyl bromide. Fortunately, there are some good alternatives to the FQPA-targeted pesticides that growers can use for effective pest management, albeit often at a higher dollar cost per acre.

Pre-emergence herbicides are a concern because of their potential to contaminate ground water. Princep® and Goal® are both under review as potential carcinogens. Alternative in-row weed controls to be demonstrated in the 2002 IPM Demonstration Vineyards will include glyphosate-only and mulch treatments. Pre-emergence herbicide use can be reduced by narrowing the treated strip in the row, by reducing rates, or by only using the herbicides in problem areas or every 2-3 years.

Mite control alternatives to Omite® were effective in 2001. Those included JMS Stylet-Oil® early in the year to suppress populations and AgriMek® or Nexter® to reduce populations that were likely to affect vine health and yields.

There are many reduced-risk fungicides, including sulfur. Thus effective controls of powdery mildew and botrytis can be achieved without using Dithane® or Rovral®, both of which are under FQPA review due to their potential carcinogenicity.

Our goal is to reduce use of these FQPA-targeted pesticides by 25% or more within 3 years. That should be possible by monitoring for pest pressures and predator populations to determine if economic damage is likely and by selecting effective, reduced-risk pesticides instead of the FQPA-targeted products currently being used by some growers. If you use Dithane today, leave test strips next year. Are treatments providing economic returns?

Weed control decisions will soon be made. If you use pre-emergence herbicides, consider ways to reduce the pounds applied or to control weeds without their use. Talk with your neighbors about their weed control and come to the IPM Grower Appellation Meetings beginning next April to observe the effectiveness of the weed controls being used in each of the demonstration vineyards.

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER

Article from the SCGGA web site: www.scgga.org

The California Tiger Salamander (CTS) will likely be listed as an endangered species in Sonoma County at the December 6th Department of Fish and Game hearing. The petition requests that 28 counties be listed, but preliminary indications are that at least Santa Barbara and Sonoma counties will be listed.

The CTS reproduces in vernal pools and adults live in upland areas, inhabiting gopher or other burrows. Thus, the listing will likely mean that protection will be extended six-tenths of a mile beyond the vernal pools. This will impact any new developments, including vineyards.

The affected area is essentially the Santa Rosa Plain from River Road on the north, Highway 116 or the low-flow channel of the Laguna de Santa Rosa on the west, Old Redwood Highway on the east and Petaluma on the south. Any new development that would destroy habitat would require a 1-for-1 mitigation. The Department of Fish and Game hopes to establish a mitigation bank of areas that provide large segments of habitat with connections between major breeding areas.

Farming operations such as deep disking or ripping in the summer damage adult CTS populations. It is not known if vineyards with permanent cover crops provide adult habitat for CTS. SCGGA will follow this issue and keep you informed of the implications of CTS listing as an endangered species in Sonoma County.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT SCGGA MEMBERSHIP

Membership applications are available by calling Francine Baldus, (707) 829-3963 or on the web site, www.scgga.org.